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Exchange, Spring 1979

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Exchange

This section contains Questions and Answers together with the address of the contributor. Questions will not be answered in subsequent issues and Answers are not in response to Questions raised in a prior issue. Rather, the purpose is to facilitate the personal contact of people with answers to those with Questions and people who wish to find out more about the Answers with the contributors. Please submit either Questions or Answers to the current editor.

QUESTION:

I operate the Teaching Diagnosis Center here at Glassboro State College. The center has been in operation for a little less than a year and our primary focus is providing feedback to faculty members and administrators through video, audio taping or direct observation. We provide analysis of behavior using interaction analysis systems such as The Flanders System of Interaction Analysis.

What may be unique to our center is that it is in no way connected with recontracting, promotion, tenure or the like. It operates on a confidential basis with its clients and furnishes no data concerning the work (other than the number of tapings, conferences, etc.) of the center to anyone.

I would like to communicate with any other organizations or persons working with faculty or administrators on a purely voluntary confidential basis. I recognize that there are many programs operating throughout the country using the techniques we do but all of the ones with which I'm familiar are tied in with recontracting or promotion or have a "coercive" or evaluative element. As you can guess, the major problem with our efforts is "selling" the service when no "rewards" exist except the value the service may provide to the individual.

Please contact: Richard D. Zahn, Director, Teaching Diagnosis Center, State of New Jersey, Glassboro State College, Glassboro, NJ 08028

QUESTION:

I need to find out about any institutions that have implemented *systematic* peer evaluations of teaching both for use in personnel cases and in the improvement of instruction.

Please contact: David Outcalt, Dean of Instructional Development, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106 (805) 961-3945

ANSWER:

I can provide information on a highly flexible computerized system (ESCI) for obtaining high quality student feedback concerning instruction. The system has been designed to enable individual faculty or academic departments to develop "tailor-made" student questionnaires which meet their particular information needs. An instructor is presented with a "menu" of questionnaire items, and is free to choose up to forty items from this menu. Users also have the option of writing their own items. The system accepts almost any question or response format including open-ended questions. Campus and department norms are available on a term and historical basis.

Please contact: Richard Johnson, Evaluation Specialist, or Byron Eckerson, ESCI Coordinator, Instructional Consultation, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106 (805) 961-2828 or (805) 961-2705.